



**BOX: PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: N. MATSUNAMI et al  
Serial No. 10/405,645  
Filed: April 3, 2003

3. A Credit Card Payment Form including the amount of \$1,202.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. Cancel claims 1-20 before calculating the Filing Fee. A Preliminary Amendment is being filed herewith.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

6. Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line:

This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 10/405,645, filed on April 3, 2003, which is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 10/095,581, filed March 13, 2002, which is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 09/468,327, filed on December 21, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,542,961. This application is related to U.S. Serial No. 10/095,578, filed March 13, 2002.

7. New drawings are enclosed, twenty-two (22) sheets, Figs. 1-24.

6. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

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**There is a change in the correspondence address.**

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Please associate this application with Customer No. 24956.

7. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Ltd.

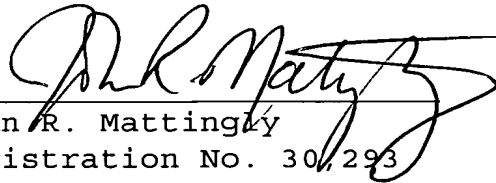
8. Priority of the following Japanese patent application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. 10-364079, filed December 22, 1998.

The certified priority document has been filed in the parent application.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained in the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed

in the present continuation application would have been new matter in the prior application Serial No. 10/405,645, as originally filed on April 3, 2003.



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Date: February 3, 2004

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